

**CITY OF COLUMBUS**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2024**

1. **Roll Call:** Council President Amy Roelke called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm.  
Present: Roelke, Mayor Joe Hammer, Alders: Finkler, Lawson, Motiff, Reid and Rostad.  
Also present: Administrator Matt Amundson, Clerk Caine, Larson, Kornmann, Bennett, Meyers, Police Chief Weiner, Fire Chief Hazeltine, City Attorney Johnson, City Engineer Leitha, and other city staff and interested citizens.
2. **Notice of Open Meeting:** Noted as posted.
3. **Approve Agenda:** Motion by Rostad and second by Motiff to approve the agenda as presented. Alder Rostad asked that Lifestar add inter-facility transfers to their report and has not seen that information reported, yet. Clerk Caine will follow up with Lifestar.  
Carried by voice vote.
4. **Citizen Comments:** None.
5. **Department Reports for file** included Library 06/2024, Lifestar/EMS 06/2024, Police 06/2024, Treasurer 06/2024.
6. **Discuss Possible April 2025 Referendum for Funding of a Stormwater Utility:** The County deadline for the Spring 2025 ballot is January 21, 2025. Amundson shared that we have a detailed plan and there are nineteen priority projects as listed by Ruekert-Mielke. We need to identify a funding source that does not compete with the budget and projects already included in the budget. The council creates the verbiage they would like in the referendum question. There is a Public Information Meeting scheduled for July 24, 2024 at 6:00pm. Attorney Johnson shared that Ch.104, Stormwater Utility in the city code, specifically Ch.104-4, outlines the process. Council would like to review the last referendum question at a future Committee of the Whole meeting. There will also be future discussion in preparing to share the information to the community.
7. **Discuss and Review Proposal from Ruekert-Mielke related to Design of Stormwater Improvements to Fireman's Park for a possible 2025 Construction Project:** Amundson began the discussion by explaining this will require us to remove existing deteriorating pipe and replace it with a more natural approach. Leitha shared this project is in the comprehensive study. The current system is at 1/8<sup>th</sup> of the capacity needed. The culvert removal will split the park in two with the new channel. There are many state agencies that have to review and agree with the project. This Task Order does not currently have the design layout. This project is slated for 2025 construction, with bidding going out in January. Committee agreed to move forward to the 08/05/2024 Regular Council Meeting.
8. **Discuss and Review Proposal from Parkitecture+ Planning for Master Plan for Fireman's Park:** Amundson feels this will both address the stormwater issues and the future of Fireman's Park. There is money available in the budget for the design portion. The actual improvements could be funded through borrowing, development of a TIF district, etc. We want to maintain our borrowing ability for other projects, as well. Committee agreed to move forward to the 08/05/2024 Regular Council Meeting.

- 9. Discussion and Update on Resthaven Project at Fireman's Park:** Henry Ehling presented on behalf of the Columbus Historic Landmarks and Preservation Commission (CHLPC). The restroom renovation bids came in and they were all above what was expected and therefore rejected. They are asking for guidance from council as to the council's vision for the future of Resthaven. CHLPC has earmarked funds that are to be spent on Resthaven updates/improvements. We have approved an environmental review, but actual work on the building will need to be re-bid. Committee members agreed that this discussion needs to continue in order to give guidance to CHLPC.
- 10. Discussion related to the Disposal/Sale of WasteWater Vector Truck:** We are receiving our new truck this month. Jacob Holbert has put together the memo in your packet. Amundson shared that the city has put equipment out for auction in the past, as per policy. We have also received interest from the City of Ripon for a direct purchase. Amundson would recommend putting it up for auction which would allow the City of Ripon to bid on it if they so choose. Alder Rostad suggested that the city receive a resale valuation for the truck as well, and set a reserve amount. Committee members agreed to move forward to the 08/05/2024 council meeting for approval.
- 11. Discuss 2025 Budget Process and Timeline:** Amundson has been working with Treasurer Larson to develop the presented 2025 Budget timeline. Larson will begin working with Department Heads and their individual parts of the budget this week.
- 12. Update on Strategic Planning Process:** Amundson shared that the Strategic Planning Committee has met with the public twice and the staff twice to gather answers to the survey questions. The committee has also received several surveys back electronically from residents that have not been able to attend the sessions. The next step is to hold a public meeting to go through the four main strategic priorities, which will help us confirm we have included what our residents want.
- 13. Adjourn:** Motion by Finkler, second by Lawson to adjourn at 8:54pm. Carried by voice vote.

Draft Copy  
Submitted by Clerk Susan L. Caine

Disclaimer: These minutes are uncorrected; any corrections made thereto will be so noted in the proceedings at which these minutes are approved.